

Mr. Beauregard's Petition does not request that the Commission remove the 5 WPM requirement for licenses beyond Technician class. In fact, the petitioner points out that the new allocations would allow Technician licensees a "practice area in which to bring up their Morse code efficiency to the point where an upgrade is within reach".

What the petition simply asks is that Technician licensees be granted what appear to be the old Novice frequency privileges, plus additional Phone privileges in the HF Bands. Therefore, Mr. Wiesenfeld's comment of 8/29/03, although well-intentioned, do not address the core of the Petition, but instead open the door to removal of the Morse requirement entirely, currently the subject of several other petitions. I ask that the Commission disregard Mr. Wiesenfeld's remarks as they pertain to elimination of the Morse requirements.

I am in support of Mr. Beauregard's petition.

I believe that granting privileges in these segments would (1) allow a new operator to "wet their feet" in the HF spectrum and (2) would provide the opportunity for CW operation vital to the improvement of this skill.

I would remind the Commission that there was considerable wisdom in prior rulemaking, particularly as to limiting transmitter input power for Novice licensees. There is nothing to be gained by permitting high power operations with these new privileges. Although perhaps difficult to enforce, I encourage the Commission to consider a 150 Watt input power limit for these new privileges. This value is roughly consistent with the power capabilities of most commercial Amateur equipment, and therefore would not present a hardship to fledgling operators.

In respect to the Amateur Service, a unique and treasured resource, I believe the Commission has an obligation in its regulating duties as to the broader implications of its rules and how they effect the development of this Service. Unlike a commercial radio service, where Commission rulemaking affects commerce, their regulation of the Amateur Service has a direct effect on a fundamental underpinning of the Radio Arts. I encourage the Commission to consider this and other decisions (whether of a commercial nature or not) with the long-term furtherance of the Amateur Service in its mind.

I believe that an affirmative decision for this unique Petition will serve that end and ask that the Commission adopt it and promulgate new regulations as soon as practicable.

Respectfully,

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